

(d) if so, to what extent these steps have helped in improving the road safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Government has not yet earmarked one percent of the total proceeds of the cess on diesel and petrol for the Road Safety Fund. However, on the recommendations of the Committee on Infrastructure, this Ministry had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary of the then Ministry of Surface Transport to deliberate and make recommendations for setting up an effective and dedicated agency for Road Safety and Traffic Management. The Committee submitted its report on 20.2.2007. The main recommendations of the Committee *inter alia* include creation of National Road Safety & Traffic Management Board through an Act of the Parliament. Enabling provision has been suggested in the report for creation of similar bodies at State level. The Committee has recommended earmarking of atleast 1% of the total proceeds of cess on diesel and petrol for road safety fund. The recommendations of the Committee have been circulated among the States/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments for their comments.

Exemption to MPs and MLAs from Toll Tax

†3151. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan have requested for exemption of MPs and MLAs from toll tax on National Highways in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, by when necessary amendments to provide the said exemption would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, only toll/user fee (not toll tax) is being collected.

(b) Only in 2 cases of National Highways in Rajasthan, namely Udaipur bypass on NH-8 and Jaipur-Kishangarh Section of NH-8, exemption is not available to all MPs and MLAs/MLCs from Rajasthan. As per Concession

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Agreement, signed with entrepreneur in Udaipur bypass on NH-8, no exemption is available to MPs/MLAs/MLCs and in Jaipur-Kishangarh section of NH-8, exemption is available only to local MPs and MLAs/MLCs. In these two cases no further exemption is contemplated as these are BOT projects.

National Drivers' Licence

3152. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific action taken to introduce a uniform system of issue of National Drivers' Licence as outlined by the Road Safety Forum;

(b) what innovative ideas have Government formulated or initiated to have an efficient and modern system of getting a drivers' licence;

(c) whether any Conference of Transport Commissioners of all States has been called to set deadlines for making issue of drivers' licence de-centralised and easy accessibility of testing centres devoid of the corruption; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard since 1st January, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Road Safety Forum has suggested about uniform testing and grant of driving licences all over the country. This Ministry has already developed a standardized software to facilitate issuance of smart card based Driving Licenses and Registration Certificates and given free of cost to all State Governments/UT Administration. The Proforma for issuance of licence in Smart Card mode has already been prescribed by the Central Government and is applicable uniformly throughout the country. However, implementation of various provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Rules framed thereunder i.e. Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The driving skill of the applicant seeking driving licence is tested either by the Licensing Authorities or the applicant has to obtain a driving certificate (for non-transport vehicles) from any institution recognised in this behalf by the State Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The issuance of driving licence is already decentralized and the driving licenses are issued by concerned State Governments through